

# MAKING FRIENDS

## A Peace Play

By Carole L. Cooney

Setting: A jungle in Africa

Characters:

Narrator

Dotty, an elephant

Red Tail, a wild African Grey Parrot

Maroon, a wild African Grey Parrot

The Wild African Grey Parrot has the ability to mimic other animals.

The Chimpanzee makes low, deep sounds: Ooga, Ooga, Ooga.

The Zebra makes quick barking sounds: Yap, Yap, Yap, Yap.

The Ostrich makes haunting sounds: Woof, Woof, Oooo.

The Lion makes loud throaty sounds: Argh! Argh!

The Red Tail Monkey makes shrill chirping sounds: Chirp, Chirp, Chirp.

The Baboon makes deep throaty sounds: Waaah, Waaah, Waaah.

- Narrator: Once upon a time, deep in the heart of the African jungle, there lived a most unusual elephant named Dotty. What made her different from all the other elephants was the fact that she had green eyelashes, small pink polka dots all over her dark brown body and a tiny twisted pink tail. Whenever she ambled through the jungle, the grey parrots made fun of her.
- Red Tail: (shouting like a Chimpanzee!) Ooga, Ooga, Ooga. Look who is coming through the grass?
- Maroon: (barking like a Zebra) Yap, Yap, Yap, Yap! I do believe I see Dotty!
- Red Tail: Yes, it's Dotty, all right! (taunting like an Ostrich) Woof, Woof, Oooo! Woof, Woof, Oooo!
- Dotty: (huffing and puffing) Oh, oh, oh. Why do those birds have to make such loud noises? It hurts my ears.
- Narrator: Red Tail and Maroon swooped down onto Dotty's back and began to scratch at her pink polka dots.
- Red Tail: I wonder if I can take some of these pink dots and put them on *my* back?
- Maroon: Good idea, Red Tail. Well, no matter how hard I scratch, I can't get a one to come loose.
- Dotty: Ouch, ouch, ouch! What are you doing on my back? That hurts!
- Red Tail: (laughing) Ha, ha, ha! Oh, nothing. We're just sharpening our nails.
- Maroon: Yeah. That's what we're doing. (roaring like a Lion) Argh! Argh!! Your skin sure is rough!
- Narrator: Dotty was not pleased to have her back scratched in such a mean way, so she shook her body fiercely and the birds flew up into the trees.
- Red Tail: (shrill chirping like a Red Tail monkey) Chirp, chirp, chirp! That wasn't very nice of Dotty to shake us off like that!
- Maroon: (deep sounds like a Baboon) Waaah, Waaah, Waaah! Who does she think she is?
- Dotty: Whew! I glad they're gone. All their shouting and scratching can be so annoying!

Narrator: The days of spring passed quickly. Then, summer was in the air. Day by day, it grew hotter and hotter and hotter!

Red Tail: Whew! Where did all this heat come from? Hey, Maroon, I'm going down to the river to cool off. Want to come with me?

Maroon: Sure, Red Tail. Let's get out of here!

Narrator: Red Tail and Maroon flew as fast as they could to the river. But - who did they see playing in the middle of the sparkling water?

Red Tail: Oh, no! There's Dotty. She's going to spoil our fun. Let's fly down and get her out of the water. I don't want an elephant spoiling my fun!

Maroon: I don't know, Red Tail. This heat's really getting to me. I'm so tired I think I'm going to faint.

Red Tail: Stop all your complaining! Come on, LET'S – DO - DAMAGE!

Narrator: Dotty saw Red Tail and Maroon circle around her. Quickly she had to decide what to do. Should she rise up and scream at them in her high pitched voice? Should she stomp on them as they came near? Then she got a great idea!

Red Tail: Here we come! (roar like an airplane) Wroom, wroom, wroom!

Maroon: (screaming) GET OUT OF THE WATER OR WE'LL ATTACK!

Narrator: Dotty reared up on her hind legs. She slowly waved her front legs.

Dotty: Calm down, Red Tail and Maroon. I know you're hot. Let me cool you off as you fly by. Watch me and see what I do!

Narrator: Dotty filled her trunk with water.

Dotty: Slurp, slurp, slurp! Slurp, slurp, slurp!

Narrator: Then she sprayed water high up into the air. Red Tail and Maroon knew just what to do. They quickly zoomed in and out of the spray.

Red Tail: Hey, this is coooooool.

Maroon: Yeah! It's really exciting to swoop through the spray. Let's do it again, Dotty!

Narrator: All afternoon, Dotty, Red Tail and Maroon played in water sprays and splashes. Then as the sun began to disappear, Red Tail and Maroon flew onto Dotty's back.

Red Tail: (sincerely) Dotty, we have something to say to you. We're *very sorry* for making fun of you with our loud noise.

Maroon: Dotty, we're *very sorry* for scratching your back to get some of your polka dots. That was a really mean thing to do.

Red Tail: Thank you, Dotty, for playing with us. Can we be friends?

Maroon: Thank you, Dotty! Can we be friends?

Dotty: Oh, yes! I don't know when I ever had such fun. It was my pleasure to play with you. Red Tail and Maroon, let's be friends forever!